

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 USIA-06

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /124 W

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R 261732Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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US MISSION NATO 2548

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ROME 2834

E.O. 11652: XGDSI BY DCM

TAGS: PFOR, IT, GW

SUBJECT: FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO ROME;
SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS.

REF: ROME 2779

SUMMARY. FONMIN GENSCHER'S CONVERSATIONS IN ROME FEBRUARY 20 AND 21 REPORTEDLY COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS: NPT, DETENTE, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE, THE ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUE, CSCE, AND MBFR. END SUMMARY.

1. GENSCHER/RUMOR POLITICAL TOUR D'HORIZON WAS NECESSARILY MUCH ABBREVIATED BY THE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS COVERED AND THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE.

2. RUMOR LED OFF BY NOTING THAT GOI COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD ON PRECEDING DAY (FEBRUARY 19) APPROVED NPT PACKAGE WHICH WOULD SOON MOVE TO PARLIAMENT. GENSCHER SAID FRG WAS MUCH GRATIFIED.

3. IN A "GENERAL EVALUATION" OF DETENTE POLICY, GENSCHER SAID, AND RUMOR AGREED, THAT THE PROCESS MUST BY ALL MEANS BE CONTINUED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE WEST MUST BE VERY CAREFUL OF THE POLITICAL OFFENSIVE BEING MOUNTED FROM EASTERN EUROPE, SOME OF WHOSE EFFECTS ARE ALREADY VISIBLE. SWEDEN AND FINLAND, SAID GENSCHER, ARE IN "GROWING TROUBLE." THE DEFENSE OF NORTHERN EUROPE IS NOW PEGGED TO "LITTLE NORWAY" WHICH IS ALSO HAVING TROUBLE, WITH THE USSR'S NORTHERN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE CONCEPT. DETENTE MUST GO FORWARD BUT DEFENSES MUST BE KEPT UP.

4. GENSCHER SAID RE CYPRUS THAT HE FOUND IT "GROTESQUE" THAT "AFTER NATO HAS GUARANTEED OUR SECURITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS, WE FIND OURSELVES IN INTERNAL DISARRAY DUE TO OUR INABILITY TO HANDLE OUR OWN PROBLEMS." FURTHER TO REFTEL,
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BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT "FURTHER INTERNATIONALIZATION" (I.E., USSR INVOLVEMENT) SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AND THAT NO REAL SETTLEMENT WOULD EVOLVE UNLESS BOTH CYPRIOT ELEMENTS ARE BROUGHT INTO CONCURRENCE.

5. KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN THE MID-EAST SHOULD BE PURSUED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BOTH SIDES BELIEVED, TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE GAINS BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

NEEDS BE RECONVENED. GENSCHER SAID THE ISRAELI'S SHOULD GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO SADAT'S PROBLEMS WITH RADICAL ARAB STATES, AND NOT PRESS HIM TO PUBLIC AND EXPLICIT EXPRESSION OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO USE OF ARMS VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL. GENSCHER ADDED HE PROPOSED TO SAY JUST THAT TO ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON IN BONN THIS WEEK. RUMOR AGREED AND ADDED THAT A VERY IMPORTANT PRE-CONDITION FOR RE-OPENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE A BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR ON WHAT THEY WANT TO COME OUT OF THAT MEETING. OTHERWISE IT COULD HARDLY BE A "PEACE CONFERENCE."

6. ON CSCE, GENSCHER SAID LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AT FINAL STAGE OF EXERCISE DEPENDS ON WHAT FURTHER CONCESSIONS USSR GRANTS. BOTH SIDES FELT USSR WANTS WINDUP PRIOR TO EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING IN ORDER TO BOLSTER ITS OWN POSITION THEREAT. BOTH AGREED THAT, FOLLOWING PHASE II, THE WEST SHOULD MEET IN THE NATO CONTEXT TO ASSESS THE RESULTS. SIMILARLY BOTH SIDES SAID THAT THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED.

7. MBFR WAS TOUCHED VERY LIGHTLY. AGREEMENT WAS EVIDENT ON THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, FAILING WHICH, SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD RELATE ONLY TO TACTICAL WEAPONS.

8. BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE CONCERNED AND PUZZLED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR DANGER. THE FRG IS LESS SANGUINE THAN THE GOI CONCERNING PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN POST-FRANCO SPAIN.

9. RUMOR EXPRESSED GOI CONCERN ABOUT A POST-TITO ERA IN YUGOSLAVIA. TITO NOW SEEMS IN GOOD HEALTH BUT HE IS OLD AND HIS HEIR PRESUMPTIVE, KARDELJ, IS A SICK MAN. THE

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WEST SHOULD SEEK TO "BIND YUGOSLAVIA AS FAST AS POSSIBLE" TO THE WESTERN WORLD, WITH A MINIMUM OBJECTIVE OF PRESERVING A POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIAN OBJECTIVE OF "EQUI-DISTANCE" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. (WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO GENSCHER'S RESPONSE.) VOLPE

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